

Exercise Sheet 5

Problem 1: Minimal elements

Let (Q, \leq) be a qo. For $A \subseteq Q$, we say $x \in A$ is minimal in A if there is no $x' \in A$ with $x' < x$. The upward closure of $A \subseteq Q$ is the set $A \uparrow := \{x \in Q \mid x \geq x' \text{ for some } x' \in A\}$.

Consider the following statements:

- ① Every strictly decreasing sequence over Q is finite and every antichain is finite.
- ② For every $A \subseteq Q$ there is a finite set $B \subseteq A$ of elements minimal in A such that $A \subseteq B \uparrow$.
- ③ (Q, \leq) is wqo.

From the lecture we know that ③ \implies ①, so prove the three statements equivalent by proving ① \implies ② and ② \implies ③.

Problem 2: Words are wqo

Let (Q, \leq) be a wqo. For $u = u_1 \cdots u_m, v = v_1 \cdots v_n \in Q^*$, we write $u \leq^* v$ if there are $1 \leq i_1 < \cdots < i_m \leq n$ with $u_j \leq v_{i_j}$ for all $j = 1, \dots, m$.

Derive that (Q^*, \leq^*) is a wqo as a corollary of the lemmas proved in the lecture.

Problem 3: Multisets are wqo

A (finite) multiset over X is a function $m: X \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ such that the set $[m] := \{x \in X \mid m(x) > 0\}$ is finite. We denote by $\mathcal{M}(X)$ the set of such multisets. Let (X, \leq_X) be a quasi order and $m_1, m_2 \in \mathcal{M}(X)$, an *embedding* from m_1 to m_2 is an injective function $\phi: [m_1] \rightarrow [m_2]$ such that $x \leq_X \phi(x)$ and $m_1(x) \leq m_2(\phi(x))$ for all $x \in [m_1]$. We define $m_1 \leq_{\mathcal{M}(X)} m_2$ to hold when there exists an embedding from m_1 to m_2 .

Prove that $(\mathcal{M}(X), \leq_{\mathcal{M}(X)})$ is a wqo if (X, \leq_X) is a wqo.

[Hint: adapt the proof seen in the lecture for finite sets]

[Bonus: there is a shorter proof ☺]